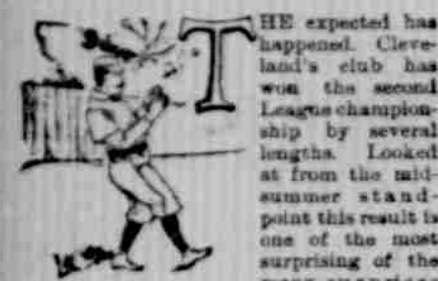


WILL WIN IT OUT

West the Base Ball Championship Takes Its Way
NO FINAL SERIES EXPECTED

Boston Not Anxious to Contest the World's Championship—A Serious Situation Confronts the Magnates.



HE expected has happened. Cleveland's club has won the second League championship by several lengths. Looked at from the mid-summer standpoint this result is one of the most surprising of the many surprises which turn up in professional baseball playing. Three other clubs at least were considered much stronger candidates for first honors than the Clevelanders by eleven of every twelve baseball cranks—namely, the Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia. But the Cleveland entry—as they say at the race track—cut out the pace from the fall of the flag, and making all the running, were never headed.

Just what excuse can be made for the three favorites is hard to decide. It may be that the Boston were bumped against the rail at the far turn. Possibly the Phillies got into a pocket and failed to get through their debt. The Brooklyn may have overruled in the stretch. At any rate the three stale horses were indignantly beaten by the Cleveland selling plaster.

There will probably be no series of finals between the Boston, winners of the first season, and the Clevelanders, winners of the second race. The Boston are not "dead and gone" to face their western rivals. In the first place there would be no money in a series between the two. Cleveland and Boston in the latter part of October have climates not at all calculated to draw out much patronage to the baseball grounds, and with the present low stage of interest in the game the chance for a financial fiasco is too great. Besides the old precedent set by former "world's series" of giving part of the proceeds of such games to the players of the two clubs still holds, and there is certainly no inducement to the managers in Boston and Cleveland to share with their men any part of the money which the games might bring in.

The Clevelanders would be willing, but the Boston have not been anxious, and for good reason. The latter's pitchers are in weak condition, and only one catcher is able to do his reputation justice—namely, Gansel. The impression is that the Clevelanders would walk away with the Boston in such a contest. The former would go into the series flushed with recent success, and with the prestige and confidence of fresh victors to back them up, whereas, as I showed once before, the Boston would still be afflicted with the weaknesses which led to their defeat in the second season. Therefore do not expect any series of finals between these two teams this fall, no matter what noisy challenges may pass between them.

There are more serious considerations facing the magnates than the question of superiority between the Boston and Clevelanders. The very latest secret called meeting of the League "bosses" in New York city is a disclosure of disaster more astonishing than any which have preceded it and knocks the hot air out of President Nick Young's August prosperity balloon, which went sailing up so grandly.

First, the 10 per cent sinking fund taken off was raised to 12 1/2 per cent. Then it was "fastened" to 16 1/2. Now it is an assessment to meet Indianapolis obligations. This is the year when the owners of huge blocks of baseball stock are not classed with the Vanderbilts, Goulds, Astors and Rockefellers. Every one of the holders has been "touched" heavily, more or less, by the financial disappointments of the year.

Naturally they are asking each other, What shall we do to be saved? That question will furnish them with mental worry during the long, cold, weary winter. As I said a month ago I will say again, with still more emphasis, The chances are that some steps backward toward abandoned principles will be taken. There will be but one championship season next year, and nobody need be surprised if the old eight club League circuit shall be restored. In spite of denials which will be made it is almost certain that two of the four old Association clubs are willing to head another and separate association circuit, built upon old American association principles. The other two would not require a large sum of cash to consent to go out of business altogether.

Salaries will come down. Yes, that is a necessity. It will be in many cases a troublesome task to force the reduction all along the line, but I think it will be accomplished. The reasonable player, who looks into the future, knows that his interests demand a paying basis for professional baseball. Receipts at present do not justify this year's salaries. Baseball is a business like any other vocation, and when it doesn't pay, and can't be made to pay it goes out of existence.

Harry Wright says there may be trouble with some of the old stars, but that "young blood" will be tried instead unless the old stars come to very liberal terms. Harry has said that for effect. Old stars cannot be spared in any large number. If the Philadelphia have to let Conner, Thompson, Keefe, Clements, Hallman and Hamilton go next year and replace them with new and untried men, they might as well close their gates and save what little money in salaries they would pay out.

This is Cleveland's first "win" after many weary years in baseball and several close races in which their team either held a lead awhile or ended well up among the leaders. Naturally all northern Ohio is rejoicing, and there is a plan on foot to give the team a public reception and benefit at which the mayor of the city will preside.

I am told that the Rochester and Providence clubs, of the Eastern league, made money this season, and that several Southern league clubs have a balance on the profit side of their books. These are a few stray bits of encouragement for the professional—a few crumbs in a famine. It is strange that clubs made money which were expected to disband before August, and that the two promising organizations, met with such an extraordinary failure.

In baseball we are no sooner done with one season than the talk about next season becomes general. It will be a long, cold winter, and yet too short for all that will be said about the national game and its wonderful prospects. O. F. CARTER.

which all the mathematical signs since La Place had failed to find. Mrs. Brown at present has a contract with the government astronomical department for calculating the ephemeris of the sun. How about that gray matter in a woman's brain?

PITCHER D. T. YOUNG.

The Young Man Who Is Cleveland's Mainstay in the Box.



Among the most successful of all the young pitchers who have achieved fame this year in the National league is D. T. Young, of the Cleveland team. He is known as "The Farmer" because he was born in the country, has worked on a farm and spends his winters in rural retreats instead of loafing around city haunts. Young is powerfully built, and possesses not only of immense physical strength, but remarkable coolness while engaged at his work.

D. T. YOUNG.

He was born at Gilmore, in Tuscarawas county, O., in 1867. Before he became of age he took Horace Greely's advice and went west to grow up with Nebraska. The west didn't suit him, and he returned to Ohio. His first professional engagement at baseball pitching was with the Canton in 1888, where he made such a record that the Clevelanders in August of that year engaged him. He has been with them ever since and is their most valued pitcher, not excepting the great Clarkson. Young's habits are exemplary. He is a gentleman by nature and makes friends of all who come to know him.

THE "RECORD KILLER."

John S. Johnson, the Fastest Bicycle Rider in the World.



John S. Johnson, the young bicyclist, is now called the "Record Killer" for the reason that whenever he has started at marks that were so phenomenal that they were considered unbreakable they have gone tumbling down like tenpins before an expert bowler. Besides his remarkable achievement in pulling down Zimmerman's world's record of 2m. 54.5s. for a mile with standing start to 2m. 4 1/2s. Johnson now holds all records for less than that distance.

The following will serve to give some idea of the speed of the "Record Killer" and the great possibilities of the bicycle: With flying start, one mile, 1m. 56.3s.; half mile, 33 1/2 seconds; quarter mile, 26.3s.; With standing start, one mile, 2m. 4 1/2s.; half mile, 55 1/2 seconds; quarter mile, 30 seconds. Johnson's youth gives promise of greater riding yet to come. He uses a safety bicycle, not yet having been converted to the belief in the greater speed of the new fangled geared ordinary.

Why Boston Weeps.

A little figuring upon the result of the League championship race, had there been no dual season, is quite interesting in results. If there had been no division and no new start, the Clevelanders would have had very little chance to beat the Boston out. Indeed, with a continuance of games the Boston would now be the only club "in it." That fact is what makes the Boston club so much disgusted with the double championship plan, for it is evident that the Clevelanders, as the last winners, will be regarded everywhere as the real champions.

After Business.

The small natural bridge that was once a feature in the rugged shore line just above Westport on Lake Champlain seems to have disappeared. It reminds one of that natural bridge on the shore of a rocky western lake. It was "acard" as a local attraction till a severe storm one winter blew it down. Unwilling to lose such a necessary attraction the neighbors carefully rebuilt it, which might easily enough have been a harmless and successful deception; but visitors to the bridge the following season were thunderstruck to read this sign:

NATURAL BRIDGE
Erected by
John and William Simonds.

—New York Tribune.

Look Was Against Him.

A man who had lost all the five dollars of his money on the races grew despondently foolish and placed one dollar on five out of six of the horses in the next race, leaving out the longest shot—a horse which had never won a race. When the result was announced the poor fellow was broke, for the long shot had won. He vowed that he would never visit a turf exchange again as long as he lived.—Buffalo Enquirer.

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